

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

February 9, 2010

Making it Work: Restructuring the General Relief Program

On April 21, 2009, the Board of Supervisors (Board) instructed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in collaboration with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), to design a program that would better help the more than 84,000 General Relief (GR) participants find pathways out of poverty and towards independence. A GR Restructuring Workgroup was formed to develop recommendations, consisting of various County departments and other stakeholders. On October 6, 2009 the Board approved 27 initial GR restructuring recommendations. The Workgroup then moved to its next phase of the GR Restructuring process.

The CEO's February 9th, 2010 memo seeks approval of ten comprehensive recommendations (including two pilot projects to contract with community-based organizations (CBO's) to conduct Supplemental Security Income (SSI) advocacy for GR recipients; 15 additional consensus recommendations; a non-consensus

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recommendation; an evaluation plan; and a program name change. The CEO's recommendations would also reconstitute the GR Restructuring Workgroup into a Steering Committee to oversee the entire restructuring process.

The CEO, County departments and GR Restructuring Workgroup should be applauded for their collaborative inter-agency efforts. Their ambitious recommendations incorporate many best practices and set key performance benchmarks. Successful implementation will improve the lives of thousands of County residents as well as the overall financial health of this County during these difficult economic times.

I THEREFORE MOVE, THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Amend the CEO's February 9, 2010 memo as follows:

1. **Recommendation #4: SSI to GR Advocacy Pilot Projects.** Amend to direct the CEO to report back in 90 days with recommendations for a clearly defined subgroup of the GR Restructuring Steering Committee to oversee and ensure timely implementation of the GR to SSI advocacy recommendations (#31 through #41 and pilot projects).
2. **Recommendation #9 to Re-name the General Relief Program:** Amend to delete the proposed name change.

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